

a 2; it has gone in the interest of conciliation and compromise, so we now have one. And it is that the House stick by its position on a very important subject, and I appreciate the gentleman from Ohio's support on this.

What we have done in this bill, in both bodies, is to increase the information to consumers about credit reports. We have in various ways, by increasing the flow of information, given the consumers a better chance to know what is being said about them. But there was one flaw that came to me as I read the volumes of testimony that we got, namely, there was a problem with the input of the information at the outset, the accuracy. What we have is, in the law, a very low standard of care that the initial furnishers of the information have to have.

I understand they are having problems. We are not trying to overburden them. Indeed, I have talked to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) about some ways later on to modify this to keep people from being flooded; but essentially what the motion says is that we stick by the language in our bill that makes it easier, if you get this information and it tells you that there was some inaccuracy about you, this bill, this language, makes it easier for you to get that corrected. It means that you are entitled to more cooperation than under current law to get inaccurate information about you corrected. That is what we do. I appreciate the gentleman from Ohio's support.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. OXLEY. I thank my friend from Massachusetts for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, let me say to my good friend that this is a bill that passed this House a few weeks ago with, I think, 392 votes and had strong bipartisan support because of the work that the committee did in working with all sectors of the committee on this important issue. All of us know that we need to reauthorize the Fair Credit Reporting Act by the end of this year, and so time is of the essence. I am prepared to not only associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from Massachusetts but also to support his motion to instruct.

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the motion to instruct conferees being offered by the ranking Democratic member of the financial Services Committee, Mr. FRANK. As a member of that committee, I was deeply involved in the drafting and consideration of the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act.

I was pleased to join with my colleagues, Representatives BACHUS, HOOLEY and BIGGERT, in introducing this bipartisan measure. This bill was approved in subcommittee on a vote of 41-0, in full committee by a vote of 63-3 and by the full House by a vote of 392-30 with one voting present. Earlier this week, the Senate approved a similar version of this bill by 95-2.

Mr. Speaker, this is the way Congress should work. This is the way our constituents

want us to conduct their business. Consideration of this bill consistently has been bipartisan and thoughtful. All members of the committee with opinions and proposals on the issues raised by H.R. 2622 were able to offer amendments and participate in debate. The way in which this measure was handled made this a stronger piece of legislation than the version we introduced. I commend our committee's leadership, Chairman OXLEY and Ranking Democrat FRANK, for making this proposal.

The instructions before us today urge the conferees to agree to provisions in the House bill that will enhance the accuracy of information which creditors, retailers and other furnishers of information provide to consumer reporting agencies. They also add new requirements that provide consumers with an additional option to correct their consumer files by disputing information directly with individual furnishers of that information.

Mr. Speaker, the problems of inaccurate and incomplete information that plague the current credit reporting system are of great personal concern to those of our constituents who have suffered them. I'm sure each of us could relate instances involving constituents who have faced tremendous difficulty and aggravation in correcting inaccurate credit histories.

This legislation directly addresses these very real problems faced by people every day of the year. The provisions of the motion to instruct will ensure that the new law does so meaningfully.

Our credit system is the envy of every other country in the world. Our country, overall, does an excellent job of making credit available quickly and fairly to consumers and businesses. Enactment of H.R. 2622 will preserve and strengthen this system. I urge my colleagues to support the Frank motion and to support the conference report that should be before us within a few weeks.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK).

The motion to instruct was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair appoints the following conferees: For consideration of the House bill and the Senate amendment, and modifications committed to conference: Messrs. OXLEY, BEREUTER, BACHUS, CASTLE, ROYCE, NEY, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mrs. BIGGERT, Messrs. SESSIONS, FRANK of Massachusetts, KANJORSKI, SANDERS, Ms. WATERS, Mr. WATT, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon and Mr. MOORE.

There was no objection.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the motion to go to conference and the motion to instruct on the bill, H.R. 2622, and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 2660, DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to instruct.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. BELL moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill, H.R. 2660, be instructed to insist on the highest funding levels possible for the National Institutes of Health.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XXII, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BELL) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BELL).

Mr. BELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address an issue that affects every Member in the House as well as every American that we speak for in this body. I am talking about the future health of our Nation and our commitment as a society to cure disease, end suffering, and improve the quality of life for our fellow citizens.

Disease does not discriminate in America. It is not partisan. It takes as its victims men and women of every race and ethnicity, every socioeconomic bracket, rich or poor, Republican or Democrat, young or old. Disease can strike anyone: cancer, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, AIDS, diabetes, depression, ALS, multiple sclerosis, sickle-cell anemia, heart disease. The most talented, the most brilliant, the most loving and the most giving people in the world have been and continue to be victims of these baffling diseases. These are diseases that have affected America's best and brightest.

Health is the principal building block to our Nation's wealth and welfare. Our ability to produce, create, innovate, contribute, and lead this great country through the next generations and the true measure of greatness of our free society which promises life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness are in large part dependent on the commitment we in the United States Congress make to the future of health and science research and discovery. I am talking about the funding level this body determines for the National Institutes of Health, or NIH as it is known.